



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Agricultural  
Marketing  
Service

STOP 0253- Room 2610-S  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW.  
Washington, DC 20250-0253

**SEPTEMBER 2002**

**NOTICE TO THE TRADE  
USDA RED MEAT SUPPLIERS**

The purpose of this notice is to inform U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) meat suppliers that the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), Science and Technology (ST) Programs' Eastern Laboratory located in Gastonia, North Carolina will be relocating to a new facility. During the transition, the Eastern Laboratory will not be able to accept meat samples for analysis from **September 20 through 22, 2002**, (Friday – Sunday). The Eastern Laboratory plans on resuming their normal business functions and receiving samples on September 23, 2002, (Monday).

The Eastern Laboratory plans to be settled into the new building by **October 1, 2002**. AMS does not expect the move to affect the reporting of the microbial results to suppliers for products under contract with USDA. Please immediately notify the Contracting Officer of any disruption in timely service related to the relocation.

In addition, the laboratory will change its name from "Eastern Laboratory" to "National Science Laboratory". A copy of the "Notice to Customers" issued by ST Programs dated September 6, 2002, is attached that further explains relocation of the laboratory.

During the relocation phase, please continue to mail the meat samples to the current address. However, on and after **October 1, 2002**, meat samples must be sent to the new facility at the following address:

**USDA-AMS-S&T-FLS  
National Science Laboratory  
801 Summit Crossing Place, Suite B  
Gastonia, NC 28054**

**(Voice) 704-867-3873  
(Fax) 704-853-2800**

If questions arise or further information concerning the relocation of the ST Program's laboratory is needed, please contact me on 202/720-2650.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan Olson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Susan" and last name "Olson" clearly distinguishable.

09/18/02

Susan Olson, Assistant Chief  
Commodity Procurement Branch  
Livestock and Seed Program

Attachment

September 6, 2002

**NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS  
OF THE  
USDA - AMS - S&T  
EASTERN LABORATORY**

Over the past 18 months, the USDA-AMS-S&T-FLS Eastern Laboratory management has devoted much time to the design and construction of a new laboratory facility in Gastonia, NC. That new facility is now complete and we are close to making the move into it. The new facility will accommodate the entire operation under one roof and is located approximately one mile from our present location.

Much planning has gone into the relocation from the old facilities to the new building. During the move, our goal is for minimal disruption of laboratory services to our clients. In order to make for a smooth transition, installation of laboratory furniture and equipment will be accomplished in phases, the first of which has already begun. Our target date for complete occupancy in the new building is **October 1, 2002**.

At the same time, the laboratory will have a new name which conveys the expanded services we now offer to our clients. On that date, the name will change to the "National Science Laboratory" and from that time on we will no longer be referred to as the "Eastern Laboratory." However, our voice and fax telephone numbers will remain the same.

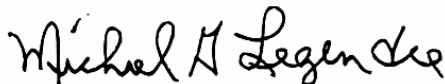
On and following **October 1, 2002**, please ship samples and address correspondence to:

USDA - AMS - S&T - FLS  
National Science Laboratory  
801 Summit Crossing Place, Suite B  
Gastonia, NC 28054

(Voice) 704-867-3873  
(Fax) 704-853-2800

We look forward to continuing our service to our valued customers in handling your laboratory testing needs. If you have any questions concerning this move, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Michael G. Legendre  
Laboratory Director